Adoration for the Almighty
Luke 2:21-38

Is Offered in the Presence of the Lord with a…
21 And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.**22** And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present *him* to the Lord; **23** (As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) **24** And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.

Desire for Purification

- Joseph and Mary were required to name Jesus according to Gabriel's message, which took place on the eighth day of His life.
    - Luke 1:31 – And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.
- **His name means Savior in Greek, and Jehovah is salvation in Hebrew.**
    - 1 Timothy 2:3-6 – **3** For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; **4** Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. **5** For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; **6** Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.
    - Titus 3:4-7 – **4** But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, **5** Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; **6** Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; **7** That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
- 32 days after the naming and circumcision, the family went to the temple for Mary to be considered clean.
    - Leviticus 12:2-4 – **2** Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a woman have conceived seed, and born a man child: then she shall be unclean seven days; according to the days of the separation for her infirmity shall she be unclean. **3** And in the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. **4** And she shall then continue in the blood of her purifying three and thirty days; she shall touch no hallowed thing, nor come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying be fulfilled.

Determination for Purpose

- **Jesus is preparing the way for believers**
    - **2 Corinthians 4:14 – Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present *us* with you.**
- **Though Jesus is God to whom all babies are dedicated, Jesus had to meet the law's legal requirements because He came from a woman.**
    - **Galatians 4:4-5 – 4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.**

    - Hebrews 2:17-18 – 17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto *his* brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.
    - **Matthew 5:17 – *Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.***

Devotion in Poverty

- **Christ was not born into generational wealth, but through God's omnipotence and the obedience of Joseph and Mary, he was born into spiritual wealth.**
    - **2 Corinthians 8:9 – For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.**
    - Leviticus 12:8 – And if she be not able to bring a lamb, then she shall bring two turtles, or two young pigeons; the one for the burnt offering, and the other for a sin offering: and the priest shall make an atonement for her, and she shall be clean.
- **Jesus may have lacked the luxuries of the world, but He was not missing the love of the Lord.**
    - Hebrews 4:15-16 – **15** For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are, yet* without sin. **16** Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Is Offered with Praise to the Lord for the…

25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name *was* Simeon; and the same man *was* just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. **26** And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. **27** And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, **28** Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, **29** Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart In peace, according to thy word: **30** For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, **31** Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; **32** A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. **33** And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. **34** And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this *child* is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; **35** (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

Provision of the Spirit

- **Simeon was a righteous man who walked close to God with an expected hope for the coming of the Messiah.**
    - Titus 2:11-14 – **11** For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, **12** Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; **13** Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus

Christ; **14** Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

- **His close walk with God earned him more than a visit from the Holy Spirit as "the Holy Ghost was upon him"**
- In his interaction with the Holy Ghost, he received a promise to see the Messiah before his death.
    - 1 Peter 1:10 – Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace *that should come* unto you:
- **It is still the Holy Spirit today that informs us about the power of Christ.**
    - **John 16:13-14 – 13** ***Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*** **14** ***He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.***
- **As he held God the Son, he praised God the Father for the peace he received.**
    - John 14:27 – *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*
    - **John 16:33 –** ***These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.***

Power of Salvation

- **Simeon did more than profess that he had received a promise; he confessed that he had held the Son.**
- **Confession of Christ as Savior is an individual decision.**
    - **Matthew 10:32 –** ***Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.***
    - **1 John 4:15 – Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.**
- **Salvation is offered to all people without bias.**
    - **2 Peter 3:9 – The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**
    - John 8:12 – Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, *I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*
    - Isaiah 45:25 – In the Lord shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory.

Pain in the Sacrifice

- Simeon's words were a message of hope for all to receive salvation, and encouragement for Joseph and Mary in their obedience to God.
- **Those who reject Christ will stumble and fall because of their disbelief.**
- **Those who accept Christ will rise through the battles of this life and in eternity.**
    - Isaiah 8:13-15 – **13** Sanctify the Lord of hosts himself; And *let* him *be* your fear, and *let* him *be* your dread. **14** And he shall be for a sanctuary; But for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, For a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. **15** And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, And be snared, and be taken.
    - **1 Peter 2:6-8 – 6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him**

shall not be confounded. 7 Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

- **However, even in rising through difficulties in this life, there will be pain as Mary watches her Son be rejected and killed.**
    - John 19:25-27 – **25** Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. **26** When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, *Woman, behold thy son!* **27** Then saith he to the disciple, *Behold thy mother!* And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.
- **Pain is certain, but you get to choose.**
    - **1 Corinthians 1:18 – For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.**

Is Offered through Proclamation of the Lord in…

36 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; **37** And she *was* a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served *God* with fastings and prayers night and day. **38** And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

Continual Surrender

- **Anna's devotion to God did not cease even through the agony of losing her husband or the increase in her age.**
    - Matthew 24:12-13 – **12** *And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.* **13** *But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*
    - **Galatians 6:9 – And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.**
    - **James 5:11 – Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.**
- Age may cause some restrictions, but it should not affect spiritual devotion.
- As a prophetess, she perfected her study of the Word to be better equipped to tell of His mighty work.
    - 2 Timothy 2:5 – And if a man also strive for masteries, *yet* is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.

Continual Service

- **The spiritual selfless service of spending time fasting and praying improved the ability to serve God.**
- **Anna's exercise of fasting exemplified her devotion to and discipline to God.**
    - **1 Chronicles 16:11 – Seek the Lord and his strength, Seek his face continually.**

    - **1 Peter 3:15 – But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:**

Continual Sowing

- Honoring Christ and receiving the blessings of God provide the opportunity to bless others.
- **Her message had power because it was a message of Christ.**
- **The message Anna proclaimed was the same as Simeon's.**
    - Isaiah 43:1 – But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, And he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called *thee* by thy name; thou *art* mine.
    - **Romans 3:24 – Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:**
    - Galatians 3:13 – Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree:
    - **Titus 2:14 – Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.**
    - 1 Peter 1:18 – Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers;
- **There are people around you who long for the message of Christ.**
    - **Psalm 107:2 – Let the redeemed of the Lord say *so*, Whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;**
    - 2 Timothy 2:2 – And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.
    - Matthew 28:18-20 – **18** And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, *All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.* **19** *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:* **20** *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.* Amen.